

'American Bash' may give Sting NWA world title

For more than two years, it has appeared inevitable that Sting would someday be the National Wrestling Alliance's world champion. Now that has a chance to become reality Saturday night on the NWA's "Great American Bash" pay-per-view show from the Baltimore Arena on Saturday.

It was a little more than two years ago when Sting had his first nationally broadcast shot at champion Ric Flair at the first Clash of the Champions in Greensboro, N.C. The resulting 45-minute draw was voted Match of the Year, and made Sting a legitimate superstar in the wrestling world.

The two had several rematches, most of which were won by Flair. But they didn't meet again in a nationally broadcast show until last December at the Omni in Atlanta. In the finals of the one-night "Iron Man" tournament, Sting scored a non-title win over Flair with just 10 seconds left.

This was all to lead to a pay-per-view match between the two for the championship on Feb. 25, but bad luck interrupted. Less than three weeks before the scheduled match, Sting tore a patella tendon, which holds the kneecap in place. After reconstructive surgery on the knee, he was expected to be out of action for a minimum of six months, according to knee surgeon Dr. Jim Andrews of Birmingham, Ala. Five months later, he's headlining what has become the NWA's biggest show of the year.



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BY DAVE MELTZER
FOR THE NATIONAL

ETC: Hulk Hogan has signed for a lead role in a commando movie that will be filmed this fall. Because of the film commitments, Hogan will only wrestle a few matches after his return on Aug. 27, before having another ring hiatus until mid-November. . . . Former NWA champion **Kerry Von Erich** is scheduled to start with the WWF at its next set of television tapings in mid-July. Von Erich won the title in 1984 from **Ric Flair** before 32,123 fans at Texas Stadium, but lost it three weeks later in Japan. . . . Also expected at the next WWF taping will be **John Nord**, a 6-foot-6, 300-pound clone of the late **Bruiser Brody**. . . . Legendary wrestler and manager "**Classy**" **Freddie Blassie**, 73, was still in the intensive care unit in a hospital in White Plains, N.Y. after suffering a massive heart attack last week. . . . The WWF turned **Paul Roma** and **Hercules** into a villain tag team, to be called "Power and Glory," and will feud with **The Rockers** in the fall. . . . **Robert Fuller** became the first North American Wrestling Association champion, winning the one-night tournament Saturday night in Winston-Salem, N.C. Fuller downed former NWA champ **Ricky "The Dragon" Steamboat** in the finals. . . . **Leon Spinks** had a boxer vs. wrestler match on June 25 in Memphis, Tenn. against local star **Jerry "The King" Lawler**. Lawler won by disqualification. . . . **Mean Mark** missed several matches this past week with a bad hip and may be less than 100% for his match with **Lex Luger** in Baltimore. . . . **Tully Blanchard** will be out for six weeks after tearing an Achilles heel playing pick-up basketball.

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